

An Open Letter to the Michigan State Legislature

To the Representatives on the Committee for House Bill #5977,

I approach the Committee today as a concerned citizen of the City of Allen Park, Michigan. What I present here are my concerns with regard to language contained within the proposal titled House Bill #5977.

While there has been a lot of discussion with regard to the economics of this type of Bill, the point I would like to cover is actually more concerning to me than any economic impact. This type of legislation is an overreach of large government into the business of small government. House Bill #5977 seeks to eliminate the rights and freedoms of local forms government to "self-govern". Over 200 years ago the founders of our great nation revolted against what they considered to be a tyrant from a far-off land. Our Forefathers decided they would no longer be told what was best for the citizens of the New World by someone they felt had no concept of what the that New World should be. They were taxed nearly into submission and pushed around by the "Powers That Be" until they felt they had no choice but to risk life and limb to defend against that type of oppression. As our country grew the basic principles of our democracy grew with it. Smaller units of government were formed in townships, villages, and so on. No matter how large our nation grows, I feel it is vitally important we never forget the words of Abraham Lincoln from his Gettysburg Address, "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." I believe President Lincoln was trying to express the importance of: government being chosen of the people from the community, by the people from the community, to do what's best for the people from the community. After all, who better to look out for local citizens than the people they've entrusted to represent them through the democratic process. The type of language contained within House Bill #5977 is a direct attack on the freedom of those elected representatives to serve their citizens and, a direct attack on the freedom of local citizens to choose their own representatives to serve our local interests.

The thought of "Big Brother" looking over my shoulder is at the very least is unsettling for me. When I cast my vote for the leaders in my community I expect them to have the authority to create policy that will help our community prosper. If the leaders from my community thought it best to have a living wage, minimum wage, or prevailing wage ordinance to help build a strong community, and they could prove that value to me as a citizen, I wouldn't want outsiders telling them they couldn't do what's best for my community. I feel this type of overreach establishes a very dangerous precedent of intrusion of State Government into the business of Local Government. I would feel no different if the Federal Government was making intrusions into our State Government's business.

In closing the fight for freedom and prosperity will never end. Supporting this type of legislation is a complete contradiction of the principles our Great Nation was founded upon. While I was not referring earlier to our leaders at the State level as tyrants or claiming Lansing is a far-off land, the basic concept remains that someone from outside my local community would be dictating to my locally elected officials that they know what's best for my community. If that is the case I would then be left to ponder: "What is the point of forming and electing any type of government outside the Federal level?" I feel anyone that would partake in such an intrusion of one level of government into another would likely allow the Federal government to then run roughshod over our state as well.

I thank for your time and implore you to see to it that our freedom to choose our leaders at the local level does not become just a pointless formality due to this type of legislation.

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